please you. It Is the disease of not listening, the maladv of not marking, that I am troubled withal.

Ch. JUST. To punish you by the heels, would amend the attention of your ears: and I care not, if I do become your physician.

FAL. I am as poor as Job, my lord: but not so patient: your lordship may minister the potion of Imprisonment to me, in respect of poverty: but how I should be your patient to follow your pre-

or indeed through the laziness of compositors, who occasionally permit the letters that form such names as frequently occur, to remain together, when the rest of the page is distributed. Thus it will sometimes happen that one name is substituted for another. This observation will be well understood by those who have been engaged in long attendance on a printing-house: and those to whom my remark appears obscure, need not to lament their ignorance, as this kind of knowledge is usually purchased at the expence of much time, patience, and disappointment.

In 1778, when the foregoing observations first appeared, they had been abundantly provoked. Justice, however, obliges me to subjoin, that no other part of the same censure can equitably fall on the printing-office or compositors engaged in our present republication. STEEVENS.

I entirely agree with Mr. Steevens in thinking that Mr. Theobald's remark is of no weight. Having already discussed the subject very fully, it is here only necessary to refer the reader to vol. xvi. p. 410, *et seq.* in which I think I have shewn that there is no proof whatsoever that Falstaff ever was called Oldcastle in these plays. The letters prefixed to this speech crept into the first quarto copy, I have no doubt, merely from *Oldcastle* being behind the scenes, the familiar theatrical appellation of Falstaffc. who was his stage-successor. All the actors, copyists, &c. were undoubtedly well acquainted with the former character, and probably used the two names indiscriminately.—Mr. Steevens's suggestion that *Old.* might have been the beginning of some actor's

name does not appear to me probable: because in the list of " the names of *the principal* actors in all these plays" prefixed to the first folio, there is no actor whose name begins with this syllable: and we may be sure that the part of Falstaff was performed by a *principal* actor. MALONE.

Principal actors, as at present, might have been often changing from one play-house to another: and the names of such of them as had quitted the company of Hemings and Conclell, might therefore have been purposely omitted, when the list prefixed to the folio 1623 was drawn up. STEEVENS.